

First NEWS

Presbyterian Church

September 2014

Pastor Drew's Views

A Call to Prayer

I have been calling us to prayer this month in my series, Let's Move Mountains! As I said, this is our most important job right now... to pray. The good news is prayer is powerful. It moves God. It makes the devil flee. Prayer moves mountains. Jesus said, "I tell you the truth... you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done" (Matthew 21:21). That's the promise so I say, let's take God up on it and move mountains together!

Prayer is simply talking to God. It's being honest. Prayer is a chance to confess our sins and commit our lives. Jesus also said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened" (Luke 11:9-10). James also says, "prayer... is powerful and effective" (James 5:16). What would Jesus do you ask (WWJD?)? He prayed. He prayed a lot. Let's do the same together and expect mountain moving results.

I call this church to prayer. Pray for family, your church, your neighbor, your co-worker, your world, yourself. Pray specifics. Be bold. Move mountains.

Grabbing my shovel with you,

Pastor Drew

Philippians 1:3-6

P.S. I want to hear from you! Please give me a testimony for how you've seen prayer move mountains or how you do see it in the weeks ahead. Feel free to call me, email or stop by with the news.

WE NEED YOU! (for the Praise Day Parade—September 13th)

Come march in this downtown parade featuring churches and businesses from around Griffin including FPC! Meet our float at Food Depot on Saturday, September 13th at 1 p.m. Wear your new t-shirt! Walk with the float in the parade or just sit and watch. FPC Griffin will also be giving away free hot dog condiments at a table near the stage downtown at the end of the parade route. We will be doing face painting and also faith-based temporary tattoos. Most of all... we will be sharing the love of Jesus with whoever we meet. Come check it out!

For the Guys



Hey, Guys (and guys only)

It's time for our Bullets & Barbecue get together.

Mark September 3, 2014 for the event.

Bring your shotgun and shells. Clay targets will be provided.

Shooting begins at 5:00 pm.

BBQ will be served at 7:00 pm.



Location::

Russell Johnson's house
487 Phillip Weldon Road
Milner, GA

Please call the church office by 11:30 an August 29th and let Millie know if you're coming so we will know how much BBQ to order.

Thanks!

Service Focus: Rushton's Hope

Rushton's Hope is the local ministry in focus this month. Several of us have gone down there to serve. It's just off of Solomon Street and 10th downtown. They have a meal and clothes closet ministry for low-income and homeless individuals and families. Rushton's Hope is intentionally evangelistic as well sharing the love and gospel of Jesus. An opportunity to serve at Rushton's Hope will be available in September. Look for it!

Grateful Thanks

Thanks to 50 seniors from Strong Rock Christian school for including FPC in their Community Service! They were here Friday, August 29th working on our property.



I hope the CE committee will shepherd young, fresh teachers (with good knees) to the children's wing. Thank you for the photo album of my babies. I know it took a lot of organization. And, thank you, Mimi.

My time as a teacher has been a treasure, a light, and a lesson.

Example: Zacchaeus. I was so sure I had nailed the story -- tax collector, thief, pariah, the sycamore tree, the song, and our Savior's forgiveness.

A little voice piped up and asked "Miss Marty, what did he do with those thumbtacks?"

Humility.
Miss Marty

Thanks!

Thank you all for your cards and prayers. I am doing much better after several setbacks. Progress seems slow but improving. Please continue with your prayers.

Sharon Holmes

Congregational Care

School has started once again and so has Wednesday night suppers and fellowship. A few things have changed. Each meal will now cost **\$7.50**. Children's meal will be **\$5.00**. A family meal will cost **\$20.00**. Starting time will be 6 pm. So that the children's program may begin on time at 6:30, children may be served first. Adult activities will begin at 6:45 to 7:30.

Reservations will be taken every Sunday and until Tuesday noon. Be sure to call Millie to make a reservation if you did not make it on Sunday. To make sure that there is enough food for the individuals who have made reservations anyone who would like to attend Wednesday night suppers and fellowship and did not make a reservation must wait until after 6:20 to be served. Please know that your attendance is always welcomed, but please make reservations whenever possible. In addition, we are always looking for someone to pick up our meals at Maxi's in Barnesville. You will earn a free meal for doing this.

The menus for the next few weeks are as follows:

September 10

Cubed Pork Steak
Field Peas
Rice & Gravy
Rolls Dessert

September 24

Spaghetti & meat sauce
Salad & dressing
Garlic Toast
Dessert

September 17

Hamburger Steak
Green Beans
Creamed Potatoes and Gravy
Rolls Dessert

October 1

Barbeque chicken
Green Beans
Mac & cheese
Rolls Dessert

Please be on the outlook for an upcoming announcement of women's fellowship activities and our new greeting card ministry.

September Anniversaries

9/7/1962 - Wayne & Angela Griggs
9/8/2001 - John & Bryan Aldridge
9/9/1961 - Doug & Pat Brown
9/14/1952 - Richard & Jane Gaston
9/18/1970 - Chip & Robin Reahard
9/30/1988 - Wayman & Freddie Hutson

Website Photos Opt Out

We are working on getting more photos online of First Presbyterian Church in action. A lot has been happening! If it's okay to use photos of you or your child, then don't do anything. If you would rather not have a photo of you or your child online, please contact the church office. Thank you!

Wednesday Night Live! September 10

Join us for Wednesday Night Live! beginning September 10th in the Activities Center. We will begin with a meal followed by activities for all ages! It's easy to remember...if school is out—so are we! Wednesday Night Live! will only meet on school days.

6:00 p.m. Meal
6:30 p.m. Kid's activities
6:45 p.m. 1 - Young Adults Live!
6:45 p.m. 2 - Adult Discipleship Live!

Topic: If we truly understood that we are missionaries wherever we live, it would absolutely change everything. That's not an understatement. It's why God has a church in the first place. Join us!

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

September Birthdays

3 - Lanier Dunn
5 - Blake Holmes
5 - Brian O'Quinn
6 - Carolyn deBruin
9 - Denny Jones
9 - Helen Wiley
13 - Ginny Singley
19 - Dorothy Craig
23 - Thomas Skinner
23 - John Allison
28 - Judy Hamilton
30 - Kent Bugg
28 - George Hollender

Opportunities to Serve in September

Elder in Charge

Diane Gordon

Communion Servers September 7

Diane Gordon, Capt.
Roy Villers
Bill Farr
Pat Brown
Charlotte Thacker
Tom Baynham
John Craig
Bill Day
Sid Esary
Stewart Esary

Children's Message

Sept 7 - Drew Elling
September 14 - Diane Gordon
September 21 - Sid Esary
September 28 - Dianne Pinson

2s and 3s Nursery workers for September

9/7 Todd and Angela Thacker
9/14 Stewart and Allison Esary
9/21 Darren and Sharon Norris
9/28 Tim and Becky Brown

A Plan to Read Through the Bible in a Year

www.esv.org/biblereadingplans

SEPTEMBER SESSION MEETING

September 7 after worship

Ministry Team Leaders - please email your team minutes to millie@fpcgriffin.org by noon on Thursday, September 4th.

September Ushers

John Aldridge, Captain
Ruth Allison
Jim Campbell
Bonnie Pfrogner
Bill Baldwin, Alternate



Operation Christmas Child 2014

Dedication Sunday at FPC will be November 16

Don't forget to fill your shoeboxes. We have boxes at the church, so be sure to get yours soon!

Starting the first week in September,

GRIFFIN BIBLE STUDY

(a community-wide Bible study for women)
WILL OFFER TWO GREAT OPTIONS ...

TUESDAY NIGHTS 7-8:30pm

(starting Sept. 2nd)

@915 SPRINGER DR.

2) WEDNESDAY MORNINGS 9:30-11am*

(starting Sept. 3rd)

@1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (1349 MACON RD.)

*CHILD-CARE PROVIDED

Both studies will spend 10 weeks on the Old Testament book of **NEHEMIAH**.

So whether you've studied God's Word for a while...or never opened its pages for yourself, there is much for you here and you are welcome and *invited* to come!!! To reserve a

book or child-care, email:

katinewms@gmail.com

Christian Education Events and Opportunities

First Presbyterian Represented at ECO Gathering In Dallas

The Third Annual National Gathering of the Fellowship and ECO was held in Dallas, Texas on Aug. 18-20. The theme of this year's conference was "From Consumerism to Community" with the hope of nurturing a passion for moving from shallow consumerism to deep Christ-centered community as we worshiped, studied and fellowshiped together.

As you will recall, First Presbyterian Church, Griffin joined the Fellowship over two years ago. As we have entered the discernment process with Atlanta Presbytery, we are seeking membership in ECO and are seeking to learn more about them. The "Values" and "Essential Tenets" that have been presented in the newsletters are the same for both ECO and the Fellowship.

ECO grew out of a movement about two and one half years ago and was composed of 30 churches. Today there are about 150 churches and more that 60,000 worshipers calling ECO home. The goal of ECO is NOT just to leave PCUSA – NOT just to wear a new denominational t-shirt but is about being changed by Jesus for His purposes and vision for the world. Shifts are necessary to live in our new reality.

Pastor Drew, Jennifer Elling, Seth Brown, Art and Debbie Hammond, Diane Gordon, and Pat Brown were the attendees at this conference from our church. At this conference they had the opportunity to encounter the Triune God in joy filled worship with 1300 other followers of Christ and to gather information and stimulating ideas focused on the needs of the missional church in today's world.

John Ortberg speaking to the ECO synod stated that, "We must adopt a correct posture ; because we trust Him, we must make a firm public commitment that we are starting a new movement while celebrating the legacy of tradition and our past." He went on to say that you can't make an old church a new church just because you join a new denomination.

Ortberg continued by saying that we each must ask how much do we love the church. We must personally grow so that the church can grow missionally reaching outside the walls of the structure we call church. We will NEVER make it if our primary focus is survival! To grow, we must, among other things, "rear-up" a batch of leaders, and you cannot lead a growing church if the leaders are not growing spiritually. We must give up worrying about what other people think or that we will disappoint others. We must love the church. We must pray and ask God for a new vision and encourage one another in the Lord.

Dana Allin, the Executive Director of ECO, shared with us that church is no longer totally "clergy centered" and that we must "unleash the laity" to share the work to be done. Others stated that it is time to dust off our talents and share in service to others. The United States is now the third largest mission field in the world, so our work ahead is great. ECO is not just looking for transfers but is seeking kingdom growth as we look at the 225 million who do not know Jesus. We are challenged with "refounding our faith."

During the conference, it was stated that a church's budget equals that church's theological expression. It was suggested that a healthy church is spending 80% on self and 20% outside the church. We must learn to serve, must learn to come together, and must become a transformed people. To live a missional model, we must grow together, gather up necessary tools, and go into the field. We no longer live in a world of "Y'all come".....In service we must go!

In conclusion, there were many informative speakers who highlighted how Christendom and our culture have changed. Future articles will provide insight into our changing world.

The thoughts from the conference were paraphrased from statements by John Ortberg, Alan Hirsch, Dana Allin, and Jim Singleton.

Note: Be sure to ask Seth Brown about his journey to Dallas. He gives a new meaning to perseverance!!

Hip-Hip-Hooray!

Let's hear it for our Sunday School teachers!
Please pray for them regularly.

Pre-K through K: Ruth Allison

First through fifth grade: Jennifer Elling

And a special shout out to our two substitutes on deck –
Mimi Johnson and Ashley Moran

Timothy/Covenant Class – Bill Day

Bledsoe Class – Russell Johnson

Thank you all for serving this way. It's going to be a great year of disciple-growing.

We Need a Teaching Team

We would like to start the Explorer's Class again, but we need a teaching team to lead it. Could you be someone the Lord is calling to this ministry? If you'd like to find out more, please call Cindy Baynham..



Many Thanks, Marty

Last month during church, we thanked Marty Dunn for over 30 years of loving service to our four and five year olds. People who make a 30 year commitment to love children and teach them the truth and love of Jesus are rare indeed. Her ministry to "the least of these" does not go unnoticed and she has our eternal respect and gratitude. Marty, we will miss you!

Don't Forget, Don't Be Late, Don't Show Up September Eight!

On Sunday, September 7, at 9:45 a.m. (sharp!) we kick-off our new adventure with the Gospel Project. We're jumping in at the start of Jesus's ministry. Come explore with us as God shows how the Gospel is revealed throughout all of Scripture. The entire church will be studying the same thing. This is a great way to plant God's Word in your heart. Now that's how to build up the Body of Christ!

If you haven't been attending a Sunday School class, now is a great time to start. Just call the church if you have questions about which class might suit you best.

Church-wide Memory Verse for September

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6 NIV

ATTENTION!

Do you know anyone who has
Alzheimer's or Dementia?
Are you a caregiver for someone with
Alzheimer's or Dementia?

If you answered "yes" to any of those questions **please join us at an informational meeting to determine the need and feasibility of opening an Alzheimer's/Dementia Adult Day Center in Griffin.**

Meeting to be held:
Thursday, 4 September 2014
6:30 PM
East Griffin Baptist Church
999 High Falls Road
Griffin, GA

Contact the Church Office at 770-227-7847
for additional information

Worship Ministry Team

Hymn Sing

What wonderful time we had on Sunday, August 24, as we raised our voices in praise to the Lord! Everyone sang vigorously, requested hymns, clapped their hands, and generally enjoyed this time together. If you were unable to attend, we missed you and hope, if we ever do it again, you will be able to attend.

The activity could not have occurred without the help of many people. Sylvia planned the hymns we could sing, printed song sheets and did her usual outstanding job of leading us. Kitty Grubbs, our accompanist, was amazing, and we really appreciate her sharing her talents with us. Pastor Drew led us in prayer and introduction of speakers and was gracious and impressive as always. Bill Baldwin and Karlene Hollender were our greeters and did a great job of making people feel welcome. Thanks to Bill Baldwin, Tom Baynham, Doug Brown, and Gary Hollums for serving as our ushers.

The reception that followed the hymn sing was enjoyed by all who attended. It could not have happened without the help of those who set up the room (Cindy & Tom Baynham, Bob Bugg & Pat Brown), provided food (Robin Reahard, Lynn Mitchell, Alice Garrison, Barbara McTigue, Cindy Baynham, and Pat Brown), provided flowers for the table (Emelie Tingle) and helped with the serving and cleaning up after it was over (Lou Baldwin, Ruth Allison, Barbara McTigue, Brian Aldridge, and John Allison). Many, many thanks to the role each of you played.

It was truly a happy, uplifting time, and, if there is sufficient interest, we will consider having another hymn sing in the future.

Looking forward.....

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for the following events.

OCTOBER 26: KIRKIN. Get out your kilt, plaid vest, scarf or ? And wear it. At our first Wednesday night supper September 19, everyone attending will be eligible to win a free tartan. Members may also pick up order forms for clothing, tartans, etc. in the narthex or by contacting Lou Baldwin.

NOVEMBER 9: Veteran's day observance. Roy Williams and his Marine Corp will be here. All veterans will be recognized.

NOVEMBER 24 HANGING THE GREENS. Join us for a light supper followed by a short program And decoration of the church.

As a church and a youth ministry we are looking for ways to be involved in this community. I believe that there is not a better opportunity in a southern town, then supporting the local community than the high school sport teams. On Friday September 5th, PYF is inviting the congregation to join them in supporting the Spalding High Football and Cheerleading teams. One of the ways we are reaching out to the students is through providing a meal for them before the game. By serving a meal, we get the privilege to not only serve the students and coaches but we also get to interact with them on a personal level. To make this mission a reality PYF needs your help in providing the meal and also volunteering to serve.

However I believe that we need to take this opportunity to the next level. We need to be a presence at the game itself. Join with the community and support these students and their families. God has brought a great young man Freddie into our lives here at the church. He plays football for Spalding High. One of our members told him that they would come cheer him on at the games. That simple gesture meant the world to him. We also have other students at this church who play sports for Spalding. It would mean the world to them to have their church family cheering them on.

To be apart of a community, you actually have to be in the community. So I simply ask you to join the community on September 5th. See you there!!!

Youth



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Be Involved

Mission Outreach

Rushton's Hope Need:
Plastic grocery bags

We are collecting plastic grocery bags in the Narthex this month. The bags are used for folks to shop in the clothes closet at Rushton's Hope.

Women of the Church Bible Study

Monday, September 8 at 10:15 am

Please read 1st and 2nd Corinthians to prepare for the study. There are no specific verses to focus on this month.